'THE GIRL' WHOSE ADAPTATION RULES!
FILMS {page 16}

THE DONALD FOUND GAGA? REALLY?
THE WORD {page 12}

'TINTIN' GETS 5-STAR REVIEW
FILMS {page 18}

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Conlin out after abuse claims

- Grizzled Daily News columnist retires after sex abuse claims
- One victim says Penn State scandal compelled her to come forward {page 02}

News

Branding: Dictators need it, too

- In North Korea, ruling Kim dynasty launches newest tyrant
- Jong-un appears to be just like his pops {page 06}

Sixers rookie showing flashes

Doug Collins is hoping to get the most out of first-round pick Nikola Vucevic {page 21}

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Good day, bad day

Good day
Pennsylvania homeowners who lost their homes or much of their belongings will receive compensation through $420 million approved yesterday by the federal government for the catastrophes of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee this year.

Bad day
Atlantic City casinos' slots revenue finally got passed by Pennsylvania's 11 gaming halls in November, leading many gambling experts to predict the Keystone State could very soon become second only to Nevada in gaming revenue.

Schools. Private funding

▶ Mayor Michael Nutter received star treatment as he delivered the news at John B. Stetson Middle School in Kensington.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Philly goes after Bill Gates' school cash

City schools will apply for a hefty grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation thanks to a new partnership with charter school leaders. The district will be among 15 competing for up to $40 million.

Reporter busted for DUI

PENNSYLVANIA. A national correspondent for NBC News, Jay Gray, has been busted for alleged drunk driving during a traffic stop early Monday morning as he drove from a party at the home of the attorney for disgraced Penn State coach Jerry Sandusky, according to website TMZ. METRO

Coke pipeline uncovered

DELAWARE. A new indictment alleges that members of a drug route from Panama to Wilmington sewed drugs into couriers' weaves and wigs. METRO

Quick fall from fame for Conlin

Quoted

"We have always taken tremendous pride in the ethical and moral standards we operate from at Philadelphia Media Network." OSBERG

Inducted in writer's wing of baseball's Hall of Fame last summer, he quickly retired as rumors of an Inquirer story emerged Deadspin broke story before Inquirer even did

Hall of Fame baseball writer and iconic Daily News columnist Bill Conlin retired yesterday amid rumors of a scathing article authored by a staff writer from his own company that revealed longstanding allegations of child molestation and was set to run today in the Inquirer.

"Larry Platt, the editor of Philly Daily News did accept Bill's retirement earlier today," said Philadelphia Media Network official Mark Block yesterday. Conlin, 77, worked at the paper for more than 40 years, joining in 1965 as a beat writer.

After the story broke on numerous websites, Philly.com posted the full Inquirer article, which contains graphic accounts from three women and one man, including Conlin's niece, alleging they were molested in the 1970s between the ages of 7 and 12.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Conlin

Many victims said they were galvanized to speak out by the recent Penn State scandal and coverup, exorcising the secrecy and shame surrounding their own stories. The victims say they told their parents about the abuse, but none contacted law enforcement, preferring to resolve the issues privately.

Though the claimants said Gloucester County prosecutors took video depositions last year, the investigation can go no further because the statute of limitations expired in 1996.

In New Jersey, sexual assault prosecution must commence within five years of the victim turning 18 or within two years after the discovery of the offense.

"I am sickened by these allegations," Philadelphia Newspapers publisher Osberg said at a press conference yesterday.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

Conlin wrote about Sandusky

One of Conlin's last columns coincidentally addressed former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, currently being tried for child abuse.

In "'Tough' Guys are Talking About Sandusky," which ran on Nov. 11, he compared witnesses' failure to report Sandusky's abuse to the 1964 murder of Kitty Genovese, in which at least 38 people who heard portions of the half-hour assault failed to alert authorities because they figured someone else would.

"Everybody says he will do the right thing, get involved, put his own a— on the line before or after the fact. But the moment itself has a cruel way of suspending our fearless intentions."
CONLIN, WRITING ON THE SANDUSKY ALLEGATIONS

METRO/AW

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One suspect's charges in 'dungeon' dropped

▶ Linda Weston

Charges were dismissed yesterday against one of four suspects accused of holding four mentally-disabled people in a Tacony basement as part of a scheme to collect their Social Security and disability checks.

Eddie Wright, a homeless man who was sometimes held captive with the other victims and allegedly forced to do many of the crimes of which he was accused, according to testimony from witnesses, was freed by Judge Patrick Dugan.

The remaining three suspects, Linda Weston, her daughter Jean McIntosh and her children's father, Gregory Thomas, will stand trial.

Weston's niece, Beatrice Weston, also testified yesterday. The woman, now 20, moved in with Weston when she was 10 and was allegedly brutally beaten on a daily basis at the hands of all three defendants. METRO/AW

Serial bank robber strikes Northeast

Authorities are searching for an alleged serial robber wanted for robbing four banks in three weeks, including a Citizens Bank branch in Mayfair on Monday.

The suspect entered the branch on Frankford Avenue near Cottman around 12:30 p.m. and presented a threatening demand note to the teller before fleeing with an undisclosed amount of cash, authorities said. The suspect may have fled in an older-model, cream-colored Mazda sedan with another male.

The same man is wanted for robberies at the Wells Fargo on 340 S. Second St., a PNC bank at 6855 Frankford Ave. and the Firstrust Bank at 7345 Frankford. METRO/SDL

Finkelstein beats sex-for-tickets rap

Woman who became nationally known when Bucks County police charged her with offering sex for Phillies World Series tickets exonerated

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Finkelstein always portrayed herself as flamboyant and outgoing, but not a prostitute.

A Pennsylvania Superior Court judge yesterday overturned the attempted prostitution conviction against Susan Finkelstein, who made headlines in 2009 when she was arrested for allegedly offering sexual favors in return for World Series tickets on Craigslist.

"I didn't believe and still don't believe there was any crime of prostitution or she was engaged in the business of prostitution and, luckily, the Superior Court felt same way," her lawyer William Brennan said.

Finkelstein was charged with both attempted prostitution and prostitution, and she was convicted of the lesser crime in March 2010.

"In my opinion, it gave the commonwealth a fallback charge that could act as a compromise," said Brennan. "The case was mischarged from the beginning. ... The commonwealth got an unfair second bite at the apple by allowing attempt."

The charges were overturned because the court believed that not only was the ruling based on a shaky legal foundation, but that Finkelstein was not in the business of prostitution, according to Brennan.

"I am certainly not referring specifically to Mrs. Finkelstein — she's a lovely lady — but I stand by the proposition that it is not illegal to be a slut. And the Superior Court more eloquently said the same — private, illicit sexual activity is not criminal."
BRENNAN

The prosecutor for the Bucks County District Attorney is reportedly considering appealing the case to the state Supreme Court.

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Branding a dynasty: The Kims of N. Korea

Seclusion state

North Korea was in seclusion following announcement of the death of Kim Jong-il, as concern mounted over what would happen next in the secretive nation trying to build a nuclear arsenal.

- Pyongyang has said foreign officials will not be invited to the funeral.
- In a sign the hermit state was sealing itself off from the outside world even more after the Dear Leader's death, few people crossed the Dandong border with China. China is the North's only major ally and one of the few states with which it actively trades.

The totalitarian state begun by Kim il-Sung and then led by Kim Jong-il is now in the hands of a new Kim

North Korea's new leader looks like his grandfather, went to school in Switzerland and reportedly loves basketball star Michael Jordan. Nothing is known about his views on nuclear weapons, international relations or fixing his country's crippled economy.

Kim Jong-un, thought to be in his late 20s, inherits an economy where 24 million people suffer from chronic malnutrition and are taught to believe the country is in a constant struggle with South Korea, the U.S. and Japan.

Kim Jong-il in September 2010 made Kim Jong-un a four-star general and elevated allies to act as his son's guardians. Jong-il took three years after his father died in 1994 before formally assuming the country's highest posts.

One month after his promotion, Jong-un stood next to his father at a military parade. Photos of the event showed him wearing a black suit with a mandarin collar similar to the style worn by his grandfather. He also emulated Kim Il-sung's slicked-back hairstyle rather than the bouffant favored by his father.

"Jong-un's main claim to leadership is that he looks very similar to his grandfather," said Bradley K. Martin, author of "Under the Loving Care of the Fatherly Leader: North Korea and the Kim Dynasty" and a former reporter for Bloomberg News. "What you have here is branding. The Kim brand." BLOOMBERG

Quoted

"Jong-un is very similar to his father, even his physical shape."

JAPANESE SUSHI CHEF KENJI FUJIMOTO, IN HIS BOOK, "KIM JONG-IL: NORTH KOREA'S DEAR LEADER."

HOANG DINH NAM/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Late North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il followed in his father's footsteps. Now his son is expected to follow in his.

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Dead deal a blow to AT&T

No. 2 scrambles for solutions after its bid to buy T-Mobile falls through
Meanwhile, Verizon investigated

The collapse of AT&T's $39 billion bid for T-Mobile USA leaves the second-largest U.S. mobile carrier with few attractive strategic options as it seeks to challenge market leader Verizon Wireless.

To accommodate data-usage growth, AT&T argued it needed the airwaves the T-Mobile USA purchase would have brought. With that option now unavailable, AT&T can either seek to buy spectrum from another company, wait for the government to auction more frequencies or try to squeeze more capacity out of its current airwaves. Each option is time-consuming, expensive and risky, said Colby Synesael, a Cowen & Co. analyst in New York.

"Without this deal, it is going to be difficult for AT&T. There's no clear solution." SYNESAEL

Already criticized for dropped calls and network coverage, AT&T will face more constrained capacity than Verizon Wireless, Synesael said. That may hurt customer growth at a time when carriers are seeking to sign up lucrative smartphone and tablet subscribers who will generate revenue for years to come. Earlier this year, AT&T lost U.S. exclusivity to the Apple Inc. iPhone.

While AT&T focused on winning regulatory approval for the takeover, rivals have negotiated their own deals. BLOOMBERG

DIGITAL VISION

▶ Competition is fierce in the hugely expansive cellular service industry.

Verizon's problems

Verizon Wireless's deals for spectrum with cable companies are under investigation by the Justice Department for their potential to hurt competition in the wireless and cable industries. BLOOMBERG

metro MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2011

Apple co-founder Steve Jobs has turned the tide on the Occupy movement in recent days as voting in Metro's Man and Woman of the Year event continues. Occupy had a very early lead, but the Apple guru has picked up considerable steam of late and is currently leading the competition. Vote now before your time is up!

To vote: Send your pick to mwoty@metro.us. The choices are Steve Jobs, the Occupy movement, or Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Voting ends at 5 p.m. tomorrow.

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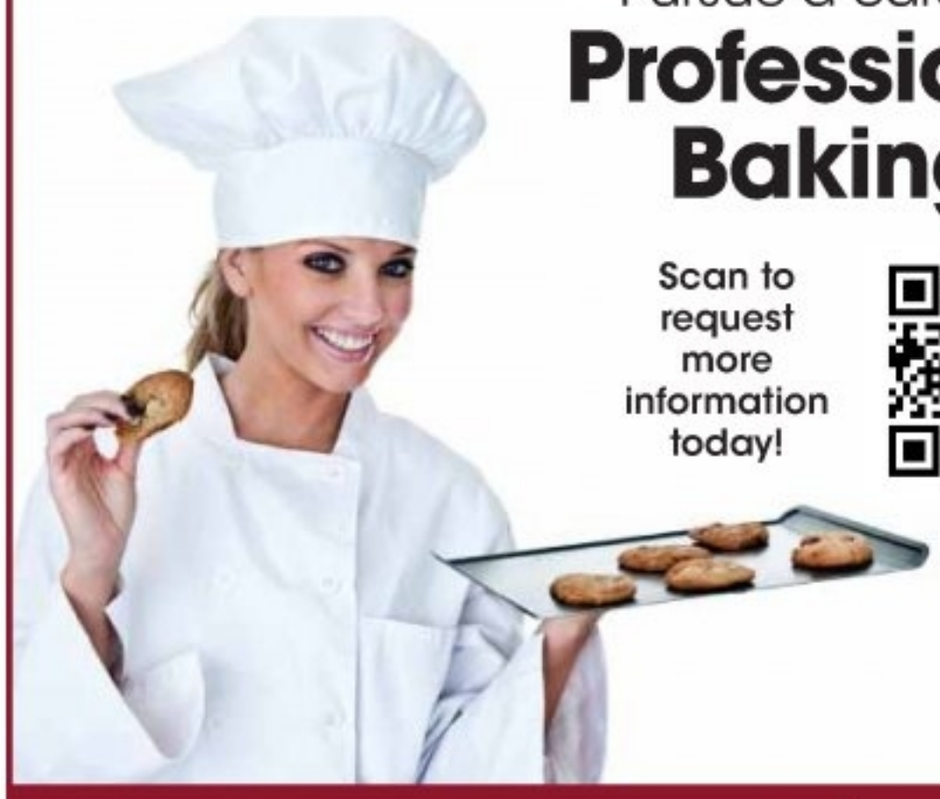

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Rejected deal could result in higher tax

- Standoff in Congress over extending payroll tax cuts
- 160 million US workers could see a hit to their income

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Obama makes a surprise visit to the White House briefing room.

The House of Representatives rejected a short-term deal passed by Democrats and fellow Republicans and called for fresh negotiations on the expiring tax break.

But Harry Reid, leader of the Democratic-controlled Senate, was standing firm and insisting that he would not recall the chamber to reopen negotiations. Reid has won backing from some Republicans in the Senate who have called on their colleagues in the House to back the deal.

Republicans are betting that Democrats fear a voter backlash in 2012 if the tax break expires and will eventually bow to their demands. Democrats are gambling that the same is true for Republicans.

Republicans say they want to negotiate for a full year extension, not just the two month stop-gap measure approved by the Senate. The Senate passed the shorter extension because it could not agree on a longer-term deal.

President Barack Obama made a surprise visit to the White House briefing room, increasing pressure on House Republicans, urging them to vote on the Senate measure.

Obama told lawmakers to put politics aside and said "let's not play brinkmanship."

REUTERS

Gen X and Y saving more than Boomers

More than a quarter of Baby Boomers are unsure if they will be able to meet their savings goals by the time they're ready to retire. But their children appear to be on sounder footing, according to a TD Ameritrade survey.

This year the first of the "Boomers" — the post WWII generation born between 1946 and 1964 — began heading into their golden years at a rate of around 10,000 a day.

The survey of 1,509 adults, conducted by Maritz Inc. on behalf of TD Ameritrade Holding Corp, found that 27 percent of Boomers were less than confident or not at all confident that they will have saved what they hoped by the time they hit 65.

REUTERS

Jump in housing starts points to bit of recovery

Housing starts and building permits jumped to a 18-month high in November as demand for rental apartments rose, suggesting the housing market was entering a tentative recovery.

Yesterday's data was the latest sign of a quickening of growth that should help the nation weather tighter fiscal policy at home and a slowing global economy.

REUTERS

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Lady and the Trump

▶ And just who discovered this headdress? That's the real question.

Just how did **Lady Gaga** become the global sensation she is today? Why, tastemaker **Donald Trump** paved her way, of course.

In his new book, "Time To Get Tough: Making America #1 Again," the toupeed star claims that because Gaga performed at the 2008 Miss Universe pageant, which he owns, he gets all the credit. "We always have an entertainer," he says. "My people told me, 'Nobody knows who she is, but there's this woman with good talent named Lady Gaga.' And I said, 'Give me a break.' And then they said, 'She's really good.' So I said, 'I don't care — if you like her, put her on.'"

And here I always thought it was the gay community who propelled Lady Gaga to stardom. Did Trump also discover Key West?

Demi Moore wants to empower you

Demi Moore's latest gig is taking part in "The Conversation," a new talk show set to air next month on Lifetime with British TV personality **Amanda de Cadenet** as host (Moore serves as executive producer). "The Conversation," which claims to be about empowering women, has already nabbed such guests as **Lady Gaga**, **Gwyneth Paltrow**, **Olivia Wilde** and **Jane Fonda**. Apparently, they plan on "empowering women" by asking these extremely successful ladies such questions as "What is your favorite sex position?" and "What do you lie about?"

Maybe instead of such inane questions, "The Conversation" could be inspirational by asking such high-profile women to speak on the importance of education and birth control or fighting sexism in the work place.

Besides, everyone knows **Gwyneth Paltrow**'s answer is going to be "missionary."

▶ Moore

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Bruno Mars is launching a campaign against text-speak, Olivia Wilde has been skipping her workouts, Zooey Deschanel is digging in for winter and Michael Ian Black is trying to hide his envy.

▶ **@BrunoMars**
Death to LOL

▶ **@oliviawilde**
Is it wrong that the only time I've been in the gym in the last month is to buy peanut butter smoothies? I try my best to lunge in and out.

▶ **@ZooeyDeschanel**
this weather just makes me feel like eating.

▶ **@michaelianblack**
If anybody (Jude Law) wants to trade lives with me, NO THANK YOU!!! (yes, please)

Mars

Talking points

Butler gets bonked

Gerard Butler was hospitalized in Hawaii this week after a surfing accident, according to "Entertainment Tonight." "Butler was held down for a solid two waves and took four or five more waves on the head," surfer Frank Quirarte writes on his ESPN blog. "He was then washed through the rocks on the inside before he was finally able to be plucked out." After being rushed to the hospital, all seems well for the Scottish actor, though. "He's fine. Very scary," Butler's rep says. "For precaution, we all wanted him checked out after it all happened. Came out with flying colors."

Scar Jo has no idea what you're talking about

British newspaper the Mirror has suggested that **Scarlett Johansson** is dating musician **Dan White** of the band Tribes. They allegedly met earlier this month while she films a new movie in London — but Johansson says they're pretty far off. "I've never heard of him, I've never met him and I've never listened to his band," she tells Us Weekly.

▶ Jennifer Elia and Chaz Bono are no more.

Chaz Bono and fiance spit

After featuring their tear-filled proposal on his reality series, "Being Chaz," **Chaz Bono** and **Jennifer Elia** have split up, calling off their engagement, according to TMZ. "They leave this relationship with great love, respect and affection toward one another. No further amplification will be forthcoming, and they ask that you respect their privacy at this time," says a rep for Bono.

Craig continues on as Bond

Daniel Craig may be donning James Bond's tuxedo for at least five more films, if producer **Michael G. Wilson** has anything to say about it. "Daniel's been a terrific Bond, a superb actor and a terrific man. The fans love him, and I don't think there's a better actor to play the part," Wilson says, according to Hollyscoop. "It's certainly something we'll be discussing with him once we finish shooting 'Skyfall.' I'd love Daniel to surpass Roger [Moore]'s record and do eight pictures."

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11-12 SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
18	19	20 WAS 7:00 (Pre-season)	21	22	23	24
25	26 POR 10:00	27	28 PHO 9:00	29	30 UTA 9:00	31 GS 9:00

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 NOH 8:00	5	6 DET 7:00	7 TOR 8:00
8	9 IND 7:00	10 SAC 7:00	11 NY 7:30	12	13 WAS 7:00	14 WAS 7:00
15	16 MIL 2:00	17	18 DEN 7:00	19	20 ATL 7:00	21 MIA 7:30
22	23 WAS 7:00	24	25 NJ 7:00	26	27 CHA 7:00	28 DET 7:00
29	30 ORL 7:00	31				

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 CHI 7:00	2	3 MIA 7:00	4 ATL 7:00
5	6 LAL 7:00	7	8 SAN 7:00	9	10 LAC 7:00	11 CLE 7:30
12	13 CHA 7:00	14	15 ORL 7:00	16	17 DAL 7:00	18
19 MIN 7:00	20	21 MEM 8:00	22 HOU 8:00	23	24	25
26	27	28 DET 7:30	29 OKC 7:00			

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 GS 8:00	3
4 CHI 7:00	5 MIL 8:00	6	7 BOS 7:00	8	9 UTA 7:00	10
11 NY 12:00	12	13	14 IND 7:00	15	16 MIA 7:00	17 CHI 8:00
18	19 CHA 7:00	20	21 NY 7:00	22	23 BOS 8:00	24
25 SAN 7:00	26	27 CLE 7:00	28	29	30 WAS 7:00	31 ATL 7:30

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 MIA 7:30	4 TOR 7:00	5	6	7 ORL 8:00
8 BOS 6:00	9	10 NJ 7:30	11 TOR 7:00	12	13 NJ 7:00	14
15	16 ORL 7:00	17 IND 7:00	18 CLE 7:00	19	20	21 IND 7:00
22	23 NJ 7:30	24	25 MIL 8:00	26 DET 8:00	27	28

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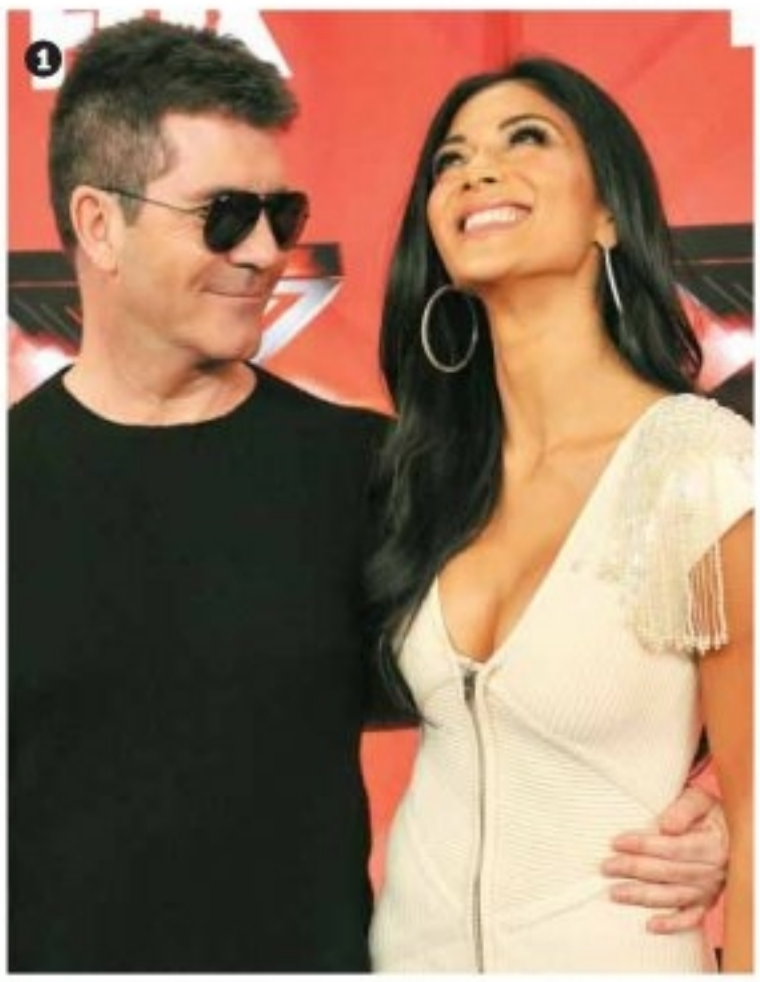
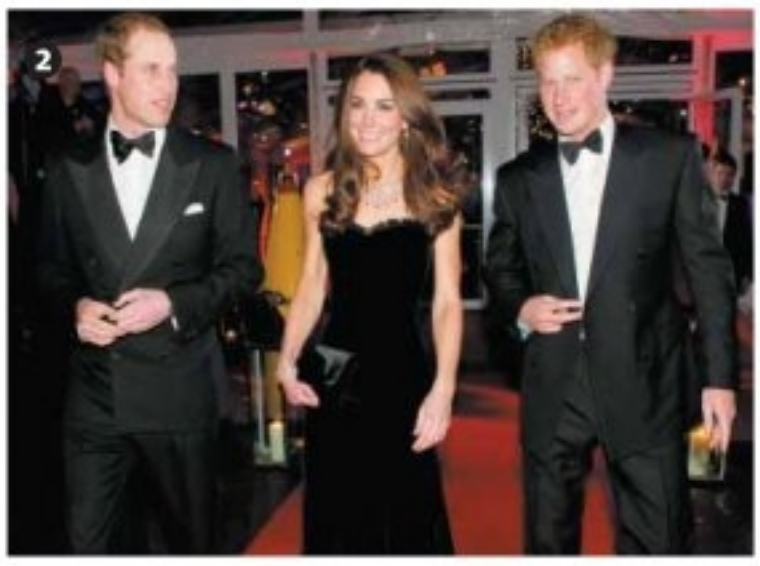
Banksy strikes again — as does Scherzinger's rack



1. What's he looking at? Judges Simon Cowell and Nicole Scherzinger posed at "The X Factor" press conference at CBS Television City on Monday in Los Angeles.



2. Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry strutted their stuff at the The Sun Military Awards at Imperial War Museum on Monday in London.

3. A new stencil and spray paint artwork by guerilla graffiti artist Banksy appeared on Monday in London.

4. Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise attended the "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol" U.S. premiere at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Monday in New York City.

5. Actress Rooney Mara visited "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon" at Rockefeller Center on Monday in New York City.

6. Trudie Styler and Sting hosted the launch of "The Bag Issue" at The House of St. Barnabas on Monday in London.

1: MARK DAVIS/GETTY IMAGES
2: ARTHUR EDWARDS - WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES
3: JIM DYSON/GETTY IMAGES
4: STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES
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THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) 9:30, 2:40, 8:00. Digital Presentation
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) 10:15, 1:00. IMAX 3D
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40. Digital Presentation; 9:45-10:30-12:20-1:15-3:45-6:15-8:40-11:00.
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 10:45, 2:20, 6:20, 9:50; 11:30-3:05-7:00-10:30. Digital Presentation
JACK AND JILL (PG) 10:40, 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:20
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 10:10, 1:10, 4:15, 8:10, 11:15
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 3:45, 7:00, 10:15. IMAX
THE MUPPETS (PG) 12:10, 2:45, 5:30, 8:05, 10:40. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 10:20, 12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:40, 6:20, 7:50, 9:20, 10:45. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:25, 10:00
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15, 11:10

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THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 10:20, 2:30, 6:00, 9:30
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 10:30, 1:50, 5:10, 8:30
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 4:20, 7:40, 10:50. IMAX

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Route 1 and Bristol Rd.
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00. RealD 3D
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) 12:00, 2:45, 5:35, 8:15, 11:00. Digital Presentation
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) 10:00, 12:45. IMAX 3D
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 10:35, 11:25, 1:15, 1:55, 3:45, 4:25, 6:15, 6:55, 8:45, 9:30, 12:00. Digital Presentation; 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:15.
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 10:20, 12:50, 3:40, 6:10, 8:55
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 11:10, 2:15, 4:50, 8:05, 10:40.C INDEPENDENT
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 10:25, 2:00, 5:30, 9:00; 12:05-3:30-7:00-10:30. Digital Presentation
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 11:30. Digital Presentation
HUGO (PG) 9:55, 3:55, 9:55. Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 12:55, 6:50. RealD 3D
J. EDGAR (R) 10:30
THE MAGIC FLUTE MET OPERA HOLIDAY ENCORE (NR) 6:30
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 12:10, 3:20, 6:30, 9:45; 10:45-2:05-5:15-8:30-11:45. Digital Presentation
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25, 12:00

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THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30. Digital Presentation
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 1:00, 3:20, 5:45, 8:00. Digital Presentation; 2:30-4:45-7:00-9:10.
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 1:50, 6:55. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 4:10, 9:15. RealD 3D
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 1:05, 3:45, 6:20, 9:00.C INDEPENDENT
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 1:15, 3:50. Digital Presentation
THE IDES OF MARCH (R) 2:20, 7:05
JACK AND JILL (PG) 4:45, 9:25
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) 1:25, 3:55, 6:15, 8:50.C INDEPENDENT
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 6:30, 9:05. Digital Presentation; 2:30-5:20-8:05.
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 1:20, 3:45, 6:35, 8:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video
YOUNG ADULT (R) 2:15, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20

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THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) 2:30, 7:45. RealD 3D
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) 5:10. Digital Presentation
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 3:00, 5:15, 7:30
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 2:40, 7:40. Digital Presentation
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) 5:10. RealD 3D
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 3:30, 7:00. Digital Presentation
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 2:15, 5:20, 8:05
THE MUPPETS (PG) 3:10, 5:45, 8:20
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 2:50, 5:35, 8:20
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 1:45, 4:45, 8:05. Digital Presentation
THE SITTER (R) 2:25, 5:00, 8:00
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 4:00, 7:00

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THE DESCENDANTS (R) 2:00, 5:30, 8:00
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) 2:00, 4:30
THE SOUND OF MUSIC SING-ALONG EVENT (NR) 7:00

Clearview's Anthony Wayne
610-225-0980
109 West Lancaster Avenue
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) 4:20, 7:20
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 4:15, 7:15
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 3:30, 6:50
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 4:10, 7:10
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 4:00, 7:00

Clearview's Bala Theatre
610-668-4695
157 Bala Avenue
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 4:00, 7:00
HUGO 3D (PG) 3:45, 6:45
MARGIN CALL (R) 4:15, 7:15

Hiway Theatre
215-886-9800
212 Old York Road
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 5:00, 7:30

Narberth Stadium 2
610-667-0115
129 North Narberth Avenue
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) 5:00, 7:25
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 5:15, 8:00
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 5:15, 8:00

Regal Marketplace 24
800-326-3264 341
180 Mill Road
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) 1:30, 2:20, 4:15, 5:00, 7:15, 7:50, 10:05, 10:45
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 12:20, 12:50, 1:50, 2:30, 3:05, 4:05, 4:50, 5:20, 6:20, 7:25, 8:00, 9:00, 9:35, 10:10
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) 12:55, 3:30, 6:15, 8:50
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 12:25, 3:25, 6:10, 9:10
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 12:10, 2:55, 3:35, 6:30, 7:00, 10:00, 10:30
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) 1:05, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30. RealD 3D
HUGO 3D (PG) 1:15. RealD 3D
IMMORTALS 3D (R) 12:35, 3:50, 6:25, 9:25. RealD 3D
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: MAGIC FLUTE (NR) 6:30
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 12:00, 12:40, 1:40, 3:15, 3:45, 4:40, 6:40, 7:10, 7:45, 9:40, 10:20, 10:50
THE MUPPETS (PG) 1:35, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 12:15, 3:40, 6:55, 9:55
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 12:30, 1:20, 2:10, 3:55, 4:25, 5:10, 6:50, 7:35, 8:20, 9:50, 10:40
THE SITTER (R) 1:00, 3:10, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
TOWER HEIST (PG-13) 12:45, 3:20, 6:35, 9:05
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:15
YOUNG ADULT (R) 12:05, 2:45, 5:15, 8:10, 10:35

Regal Plymouth Meeting 10
800-326-3264 335
1011 W Ridge Pike
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 12:00, 1:20, 3:30, 5:00, 7:00, 8:30, 10:30
HUGO 3D (PG) 12:20, 3:20, 6:30, 9:40. RealD 3D
MAGIC FLUTE (NR) 6:30
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 12:00, 12:40, 1:40, 3:15, 3:45, 4:40, 6:40, 7:10, 7:45, 9:40, 10:20, 10:50
THE MUPPETS (PG) 1:35, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 12:15, 3:40, 6:55, 9:55
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 12:30, 1:20, 2:10, 3:55, 4:25, 5:10, 6:50, 7:35, 8:20, 9:50, 10:40
THE SITTER (R) 1:30, 4:40, 7:50, 10:10
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 1:10, 7:30

Ritz 5 Movies
215-925-7900
214 Walnut Street
THE IDES OF MARCH (R) 2:40, 7:25
J. EDGAR (R) 3:15, 6:15, 9:15
LIKE CRAZY (PG-13) 1:00
MARTHA MARCY MAY MARLENE (R) 12:15, 5:00, 9:50
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:45
SHAME (NC-17) 12:20, 1:10, 2:50, 3:30, 5:15, 6:00, 7:40, 8:40, 10:00

Ritz East
215-925-7900
2nd Street between Walnut and Chestnut
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 12:30, 1:30, 3:15, 4:15, 6:00, 7:00, 8:45, 9:45

Ritz at the Bourse
215-925-7900
400 Ranstead Street
BEING ELMO: A PUPPETEER'S JOURNEY (PG) 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:30
MELANCHOLIA (R) 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35
THE SKIN I LIVE IN (LA PIEL QUE HABITO) (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:40
TOMBOY (NR) 1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:20
YOUNG GOETHE IN LOVE (NR) 1:15, 3:45, 6:50, 9:30

Roxy Theatre Philadelphia
215-923-6699
2023 Sansom Street
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 2:35, 5:00, 7:35, 9:50
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

The Pearl Theatre at Avenue North
215-763-7700
3600 North Broad Street
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) 1:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 1:30, 3:50, 7:00, 9:20
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00
THE SITTER (R) 1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:50

Tuttleman IMAX Theater - Franklin Institute
215-448-1111
20th & Benjamin Franklin Parkway
CORAL REEF ADVENTURE (NR) 11:15
FORCES OF NATURE (LARGE FORMAT) (G) 10:15, 12:15
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25, 12:00

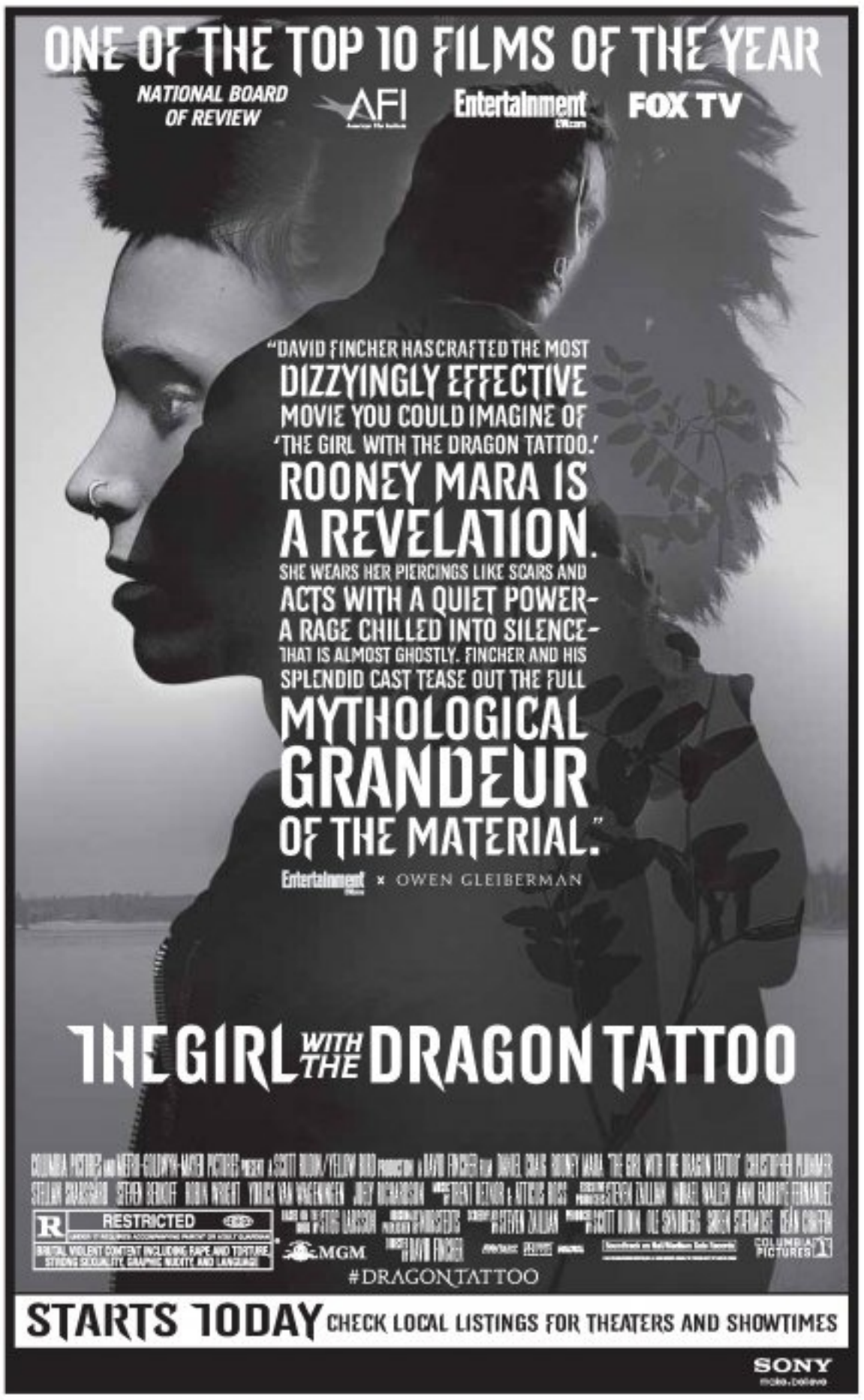
UA Grant Plaza 9
800-326-3264 651
1619 Grant Avenue - Grant Plaza 2 Shopping Center
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) 1:20, 4:20, 7:40, 10:20
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 1:30, 3:50, 7:00, 9:20
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00
THE SITTER (R) 1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:50

UA King of Prussia Stadium 16
800-326-3264 644
Located on Mall Boulevard across from The Plaza King of Prussia
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) 11:30, 2:00, 5:10, 8:10, 10:45
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00. IMAX 3D
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 12:10, 12:40, 2:20, 2:50, 4:50, 5:20, 7:10, 7:40, 9:30, 10:10
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 11:40, 3:10, 6:20, 9:20
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 11:50, 1:00, 3:30, 5:00, 7:00, 8:30, 10:35
HUGO 3D (PG) 11:45, 3:00, 9:40. RealD 3D
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: MAGIC FLUTE (NR) 6:30
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 12:30, 1:10, 3:40, 4:20, 6:50, 8:00, 10:00, 11:00
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 7:30, 10:30. IMAX
THE MUPPETS (PG) 1:20, 4:10, 7:20, 10:15
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 12:50, 6:45. OC-Open Caption; 3:50-9:45.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 12:20, 1:30, 3:20, 4:30, 6:40, 7:50, 9:50, 10:50
THE SITTER (R) 12:15, 2:40, 5:15, 7:55, 10:20
YOUNG ADULT (R) 11:35, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55

UA Main Street 6
800-326-3264 647
3720-40 Main Street
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 12:30, 3:40, 7:15, 10:20

UA Movies at 69th Street 9
800-326-3264 654
53 South 69th Street
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) 4:50
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 4:10, 7:10, 9:45
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 5:00, 8:30
HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) 4:15, 6:40, 9:20. RealD 3D
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 4:00, 7:30, 10:50
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 4:05, 7:05, 10:00
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 4:30, 7:40, 10:40
THE SITTER (R) 4:40, 7:15, 9:30
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 4:20, 7:20, 10:10

UA Riverview Stadium 17
800-326-3264 650
1400 South Columbus Boulevard
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) 12:20, 1:20, 3:10, 4:00, 7:30, 10:10
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 12:10, 12:40, 1:50, 2:30, 3:00, 4:10, 4:50, 5:20, 6:40, 7:20, 8:00, 9:00, 9:40, 10:15
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 7:00, 8:20, 10:30
HUGO 3D (PG) 1:15, 4:15, 7:25, 10:25. RealD 3D
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: MAGIC FLUTE (NR) 6:30
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 12:30, 1:10, 3:40, 4:20, 6:30, 7:10, 7:50, 9:50, 10:20, 11:00
THE MUPPETS (PG) 1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 1:45, 4:35, 7:45, 10:35
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 12:50, 1:30, 3:50, 4:30, 6:50, 7:40, 10:00, 10:50
THE SITTER (R) 1:05, 8:30. OC-Open Caption; 3:25-5:50-10:45.
THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1 (PG-13) 12:35, 10:05
YOUNG ADULT (R) 12:45, 3:20, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40


ONE OF THE TOP 10 FILMS OF THE YEAR
NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
AFI
Entertainment Weekly
FOX TV
"DAVID FINCHER HAS CRAFTED THE MOST DIZZYINGLY EFFECTIVE MOVIE YOU COULD IMAGINE OF 'THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO.' ROONEY MARA IS A REVELATION. SHE WEARS HER PIERCINGS LIKE SCARS AND ACTS WITH A QUIET POWER- A RAGE CHILLED INTO SILENCE- THAT IS ALMOST GHOSTLY. FINCHER AND HIS SPLENDID CAST TEASE OUT THE FULL MYTHOLOGICAL GRANDEUR OF THE MATERIAL."
Entertainment Weekly × OWEN GLEIBERMAN
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myentertainment

'Dragon Tattoo' is an adaptation worth seeing

▶ Forget it, Blomkvist. There's no cell phone reception in Hedestad.

MERRICK MORTON

If you go

'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo'
Director: David Fincher
Cast: Rooney Mara, Daniel Craig, Christopher Plummer
Rating: R
Grade: ●●●●○

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

Good things can come of the general presumption that Americans are too lazy to read subtitles. David Fincher has proven this with his adaptation of the first installment of Stieg Larsson's Millenium trilogy, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo."

Yes, everyone howled when this project was announced, because Danish filmmaker Niels Arden Oplev and Swedish director Daniel Alfredson had already produced masterful adaptations of the trilogy, in which Swedish was spoken.

No one could imagine another actress besides Noomi Rapace in the role of Lisbeth Salander. The popularity of the Swedish films was so widespread that it helped to land Rapace in Hollywood, where she is currently co-starring in the second "Sherlock Holmes" movie.

Synopsis

Investigative journalist under siege Mikael Blomkvist (Craig) is contracted by a rich industrialist to find out what happened to a niece who disappeared more than 36 years earlier.

But, David Fincher did the impossible. His rendition of "Dragon Tattoo" adds something that the original film lacked. Adopting the rule of show, don't tell, Fincher swaps dark conversations over coffee for vivid reenactments of the stories being related from one character to another. The opening credits alone bring a chill of excitement and, admittedly, Hollywood flash that the original decidedly lacked.

Rooney Mara's Golden Globe nomination is well-deserved, considering she produced an impressive and understated Swedish accent — while allowing emotions to play on her face without uttering a word.

The sets are grittier, the violence is bloodier and the explosions are bigger. But none of this steroidal enhancement feels obnoxious or out of place.

Perhaps the only criticism that could be lobbed at the film is how it ultimately peters out. Even so, we can't wait to see what Fincher brings to the next film, "The Girl Who Played With Fire," in 2013.

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myentertainment

COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

▶ Tintin (voiced by Jamie Bell) and Captain Haddock (voiced by Andy Serkis) spot something mysterious in the distance.

Nothing but grins for 'Tintin'

'The Adventures of Tintin'
Director: Steven Spielberg
Cast: Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis, Nick Frost, Simon Pegg
Rating: PG
Grade: ●●●●●

Unlike the emphatically epic "War Horse," which director Steven Spielberg is also releasing this holiday season, the animated "The Adventures of Tintin" is a naturally joyful adventure that excels both in how the story is told and the astonishing way it looks.

Based on the books by Herge, this "Tintin" is so amazingly realistic at certain points, you'd swear live footage was used. WETA Digital has banished the uncanny valley from existence thanks to their mastery of animating eyeballs so that they have the proper life to them.

The frequent comparisons to the "Indiana Jones" series are properly earned, given how much sweeping grandeur the action sequences contain. It's overall a sweet, breathtaking and unforgettable story.

Synopsis

Tintin finds himself hastily pursued by sinister Professor Sakharine, who is piecing together clues for finding a sunken ship that's filled with gold.

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

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Today in medicine

Seaweed fiber and weight loss

Study subjects: 96 overweight men and women
Location of study: Denmark
Results: A University of Copenhagen study found that dietary fibers from brown algae, given as part of a drink, gave the feeling of a full stomach.
Significance: Th fibers may aid in short-term weight loss.

Working moms are healthier

Study subjects: 1,364 mothers
Location of study: U.S.
Results: A study published in this month's Journal of Family

COMSTOCK

▶ Going back to work is good for your health, new data reveals.

Psychology says that working mothers are not as depressed and in overall better health than their stay-at-home counterparts. Whether the moms worked part- or full-time didn't matter, though part-time working moms had less stressful work and home conflicts.
Significance: Stay-at-home moms could feel more isolated and like they are under more stress than working moms.

Tanning beds and cancer

Study subjects: 376 patients diagnosed with basal cell carcinoma, 390 controls without it
Location of study: U.S.
Results: Young people who go indoor tanning increase their risk of basal cell carcinoma by 69 percent, say researchers at the Yale School of Public Health. Their study, reported in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, found the risk increased with usage, too.
Significance: About 25 percent of early-onset BCC cases could be prevented if people avoided indoor tanning, the experts say. Indoor tanning is also linked to melanoma, a much deadlier form of skin cancer.

LINDA CLARKE

Holiday

Egg-cellent eggnogs

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Weatherman unnecessary

A recent poll on whether U.S. citizens are interested in correcting economic inequality found 46 percent in favor. However, 54 percent were concerned somewhat or not at all. If you take the "somewhats," that would make 73 percent concerned. But we don't need a poll; all we need do is live our lives and look around. Too few are making too much and too many are making not enough; and until the economic equation is solved, this economy will not rebound with any fervency.
DAVID DIBELLO, VIA E-MAIL

Founders gave press the right

RE: "DOES THIS LOOK LIKE UNITY?": Ron Shelton says: "Mr. Simms' high dudgeon is hypocritical. He works for a media corporation that was permitted to engage in political advocacy, yet he thinks other corporations should not have the same rights!" Our founding fathers in the first amendment specifically gave free speech rights to the press. They would recognize the Metro and other newspapers as deserving of those rights (and obligations) and would be appalled to think that they apply to Monsanto or Citibank or the Koch Bros. Inc. — which more resemble the East India Trading Company whose tea they threw in Boston Harbor. So much for original constitutional intent.
JAMES E. VAN LOOY, VIA E-MAIL

Think Paul, forget Gingrich

RE: "GINGRICH FADING IN IOWA": There is so much media bias against Ron Paul that his taking over the lead in Iowa is run as a story about a fading Newt Gingrich. Ron Paul doesn't have youth, looks or charisma — what he has is a proven commitment to a limited constitutional government.
BRIAN CHAPMAN, VIA E-MAIL

Comparing two recent deaths

North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il, the personification of evil, has died. He forced his people to go hungry while he dazzled in riches — and all for military armaments and the development of nuclear weapons. Now that he's dead, is the world safer? Meanwhile, a good man, Vaclav Havel, the former Czech Republic president who fought for many years for democracy against a totalitarian regime, has died. Evil thrives when good men do nothing, but Vaclav Havel stood up to evil and won.
FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., VIA E-MAIL

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** You have an ability to get others to be interested in things you find intriguing, thereby getting them to willingly help you. Try to make sure that everyone benefits equally.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** When involved with people who espouse progressive ideas, get involved in conversations where you can learn what they know. One individual may clue you in to something valuable.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Don't be fearful of changing conditions, even those that are exceptionally challenging. You'll perform far better if the heat is turned up.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** As long as you know you are being honest with yourself, place your faith in your own evaluations instead of in the judgment of others.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Take control of your own destiny instead of letting life manipulate you. If you want something badly enough, achieve it on your own instead of waiting for others to give it to you.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** If another has far better ideas than anything you've got, let him or her take the lead while you play the supporting role. You'll have a strong team.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** This is a better than usual day for doing all kinds of personal jobs. Anything you can take on yourself will save you some big bucks.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Seek out some activities that are not of a sedentary nature during your free time. It's OK to need a break from everyday chores, but you still need to use your mind, body and soul.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Strike while life is going your way, but don't let things drag on too long, especially matters of a financial nature. Things have a way of adding up and when money is involved, and it ain't pretty.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Although many people you know are deceived by outward appearances, you should be able to pierce any facade. You'll be able to see people and things for what they are and act accordingly.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Give vent to your ambitious desires, especially if there are several material items you want to acquire. Success is likely in areas where you are strongly motivated to act.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** It's far easier to perform well when you believe that you can transform your dreams into realities. Be optimistic and hopeful regarding the outcome of events. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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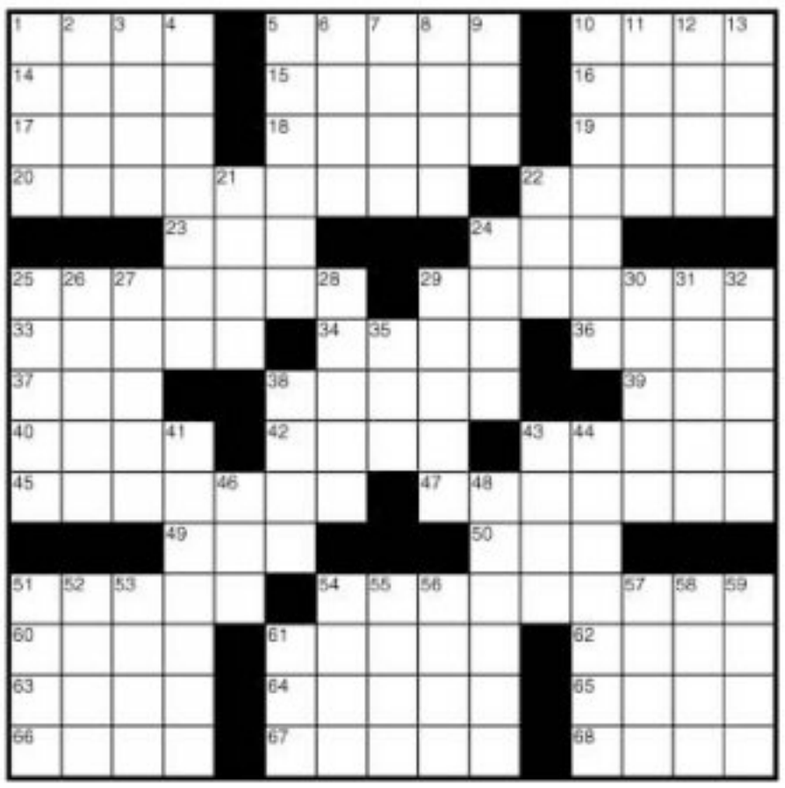
29 Soft coal
33 Bridge support
34 Cliff dwelling, now
36 Laird or lassie
37 Pitch for a road crew
38 Faux pas
39 Trendy meat
40 "Lucky Jim" author
42 Mob scene
43 Like a corset
45 Tennis gear
47 Conjecture
49 Ore diggers' org.
50 Bridal notice word
51 Meadow grazers
54 Wistful feeling
60 Prefix for "trillion"
61 Raccoon kin
62 Morays and congers
63 Disguise
64 Founder of Caesarea
65 Sleep fitfully
66 Low card
67 Term paper
68 Jalousie piece

Down
1 Affirmative votes
2 Latin I verb
3 Milan money, formerly
4 Dress features
5 Omen seeker
6 Charlie's lady
7 __ accompli
8 A funny Johnson
9 Vitamin amt.
10 Prepares shrimp
11 Et __
12 She preceded Mamie
13 "Beat it, cat!"
21 Depot info
22 Greedy sort
24 Cattle, old-style
25 Perfume base
26 Acting class
27 Containing gold
28 Genetic factor
29 Free rides
30 Boadicea's people
31 Scholarly volumes
32 Liszt opus
35 Mysterious sighting
38 Sprouted
41 Like new shoes
43 City north of Anaheim
44 Diner fare
46 Strike caller
48 Messy
51 Bill, briefly
52 Listen
53 Gaelic language
54 Denials
55 Galley movers
56 Portico
57 Earth sci.
58 Rick's old flame
59 Helper, briefly
61 Ernesto Guevara



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

T	H	R	O	A	T		F	A	B		C	A	R	P
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		J	U	M	P	I	N	G	J	A	C	K	S	
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L	E	T	S		U	K	E		B	L	E	A	R	Y
F	R	A	T		M	E	D		S	L	E	D	G	E

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For Sixers, a tale of love at first sight

Collins happy Vucevic fell in draft ◗ Rookie center working on post moves ◗ Behind Hawes, Speights

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Sixers grabbed Nikola Vucevic with the 16th overall pick.

Back in early May, Doug Collins was at a predraft camp in Chicago when a big man caught his eye. The Sixers coach asked two questions: Who the heck is he? And where is he projected?

The answers: USC center Nikola Vucevic and not very high.

After that breakout performance in Chicago, Vucevic's draft stock soared thanks to his 7-foot, 240-pound frame and soft hands. So Collins and his staff of scouts held their breath before finally landing their man with the No. 16 overall pick.

Vucevic's preseason has been a learning process. He's currently behind starter Spencer Hawes and Marreese Speights in the big-man rotation.

"I'd like to see him get a little more aggressive, a little more assertive," Collins said before last night's preseason finale. "I think that will come with time. I think a lot of times with younger players especially, they want to blend in."

Vucevic knows that he needs to look to score more. His post moves are a little too raw right now to score with his back to the basket at the NBA level, so he has to rely on his jumper.

"[Collins] wants me to be comfortable shooting the ball," Vucevic said. "If I'm open, he wants me to shoot. That's what he's gotten on me about the most."

ADAM LEVITAN
alevitan@metro.us

Get it started!

The Sixers wrapped up their abbreviated preseason last night with a 101-94 win over the Washington Wizards. **Jrue Holiday** led the way with 24 points, and rookie **Nikola Vucevic** chipped in with five points and four rebounds.

Booth review

Rose replaces Snow in booth

Former Drexel star Malik Rose will take over as the Sixers' color commentator this season.

Rose, a two-time NBA champion, replaces Eric Snow, who notoriously fell asleep during a game last season. Rose joins longtime play-by-play guy Marc Zumoff.

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NEW YEAR'S PREDICTIONS

Opinion

JASON McINTYRE
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Forget about a year-in-review column. Predictions are what you really want. Here are some sports predictions for 2012. I highly suggest you make a copy, and email me in a mocking manner when none of them happen.

Derek Jeter will be linked to Margot Robbie, the actress from "Pan Am" (I'm bitter they cancelled that show). The Australian newspaper coverage will be exhaustive.

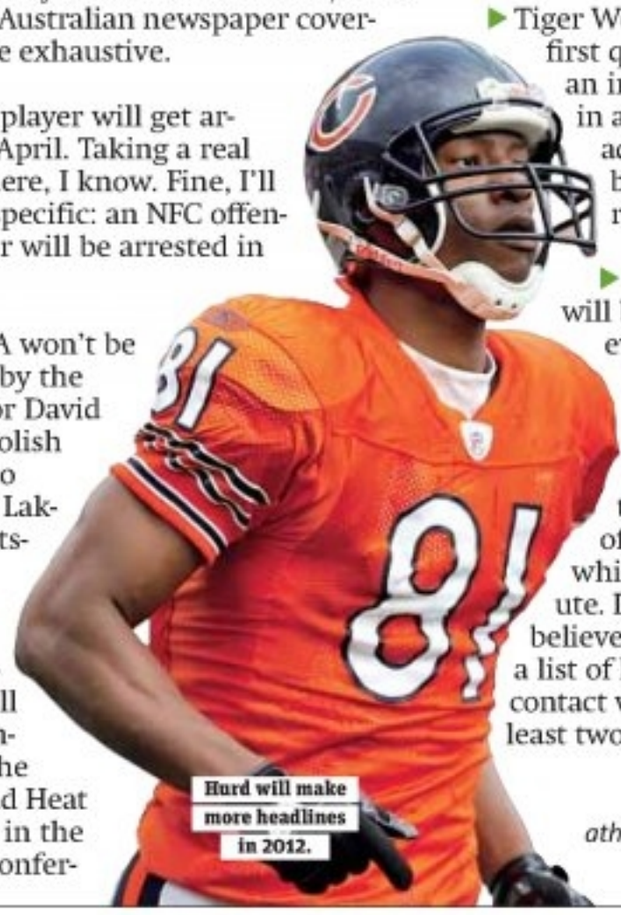
▶ An NFL player will get arrested in April. Taking a real chance there, I know. Fine, I'll be more specific: an NFC offensive player will be arrested in April.

▶ The NBA won't be damaged by the lockout, or David Stern's foolish decision to block the Lakers-Rockets-Hornets deal. In fact, the NBA postseason will be tremendous, as the Knicks and Heat will meet in the Eastern Conference finals, and the Lakers and Clippers will meet in the Western finals. Why the Lakers? Because they'll acquire Dwight Howard by the trade deadline. I'll take the Heat over the Clippers in the NBA Finals.

▶ Kim Kardashian will attempt to date someone from the Super Bowl — either a Packers' player or a Patriot — but that will sputter and she'll move on to Hollywood's newest star, Dwight Howard.

▶ Tiger Woods will struggle in the first quarter of the year, fake an injury while doing poorly in a major and come out and admit he has no shot at breaking Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 majors.

▶ The biggest story of 2012 will be Sam Hurd snitching on everyone he dealt drugs to. Hurd, if you missed the news, was arrested on federal charges last week for allegedly attempting to buy massive quantities of cocaine and marijuana, which he planned to distribute. Depending on whom you believe, the authorities may have a list of NFL players Hurd was in contact with. I think we'll see at least two All-Pros on the list.



Hurd will make more headlines in 2012.

– Jason Raj McIntyre covers athletes off the field and runs the popular blog, The Big Lead.

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Shady's success starts with the guys up front

McCoy credits offensive line for breakout season • Could become first Eagle to win rushing title since 1949 • Teammates take pride in work

GETTY IMAGES

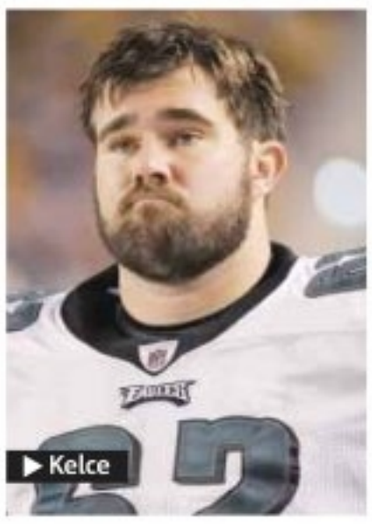
▶ McCoy could be the first Eagle to win a rushing title in more than 60 years.

The first thing LeSean McCoy did after breaking the single-season touchdown record last week was thank his offensive linemen.

Right after a video tribute flashed on the big screen at Lincoln Financial Field, McCoy went down the line and shook hands with all five guys.

"Every great back that tells you they're doing it themselves is lying," McCoy said. "It starts with those guys up front, and they've had my back all year."

McCoy is trying to become the first Eagles back to win a rushing title since 1949, when Steve Van Buren finished with 1,146 yards. McCoy has already racked up 1,274 and trails Jacksonville's Maurice Jones-Drew by just 60 rushing yards. With two games left, it's entirely possible that McCoy makes a little history.



▶ Kelce

"He's a special back and you always take pride whenever a running back is having a great season like Shady is," said center Jason Kelce. "And he wouldn't be able to do it without us, but I don't know if we would have as many rushing yards as we do from our starting back if it wasn't from LeSean McCoy. So it goes hand-in-hand and it's fun blocking for him."

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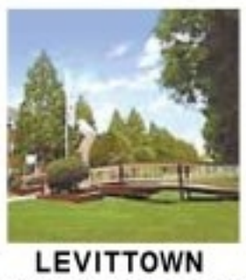

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How to achieve harmony at home

Want your guests to feel at ease — and for any family tension to (literally) flow out the doors this holiday season? Give your home a zen makeover with these tips from feng shui master practitioner Debra Duneier

NICHOLE THOMPSON-ADAMS

For more tips, turn to Duneier's book "EcoChi: Designing The Human Experience."

FYI

What is feng shui?

"Feng shui is a design system of purposefully arranging an environment so that it has a positive effect on the people who live, work or visit there," says Duneier.

Try a round table

The holidays are centered around food, so it's important that mealtime goes as smoothly as possible. "This is the perfect season to be seated at a round or oval table for meals," she says. "Sitting in the round enables everyone to see each other and easily get involved in conversation. Everyone is valued equally regardless of age or influence, since no one is seated in the power position at the head of the table. This seating arrangement assures a lively and engaging dinner party."

If you don't have a round or oval table, Duneier recommends keeping your guests away from the corners to prevent any feelings of unease.

Smell sweet

One of the first things you notice when you step into a home is its smell. Use candles or essential oils to infuse your home with a sense of the holidays, Duneier recommends. Lavender or lemon scents create a calm environment; light your candles an hour to an hour and a half before guests arrive.

Declutter your Ming Tang

"Your Ming Tang, or entrance, is where you go from outdoor energy to indoor energy," says Duneier. "If you block the entrance with clutter, you send a message that you don't have room for people and opportunities to come into your life. It blocks energy from entering our space."

SALLY MORRIS
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Realtor recap: The market in 2011

It wasn't a great year, but things are looking up First-time buyers and new construction top the trends

Philly's real estate market wasn't hit as hard as some others, but 2011 wasn't exactly a year to be excited about. Median sales prices were down compared to 2010, according to Trulia, and the number of sales decreased. Still, some realtors have hope.

"I'm seeing more buyers coming to open houses … and investors are starting to pop their heads up again," says Zach Skidmore of Prudential Fox & Roach. "I'm speculating 2012 is going to be a much better year."

RACHEL VIGODA
letters@metro.us

First-time buyers dominated

The average young homebuyer probably doesn't have $60,000 to put down for a $300,000 starter home in Center City — but with the Federal Housing Administration mortgage program they only need to scrounge up 3.5 percent, or $10,500. "There aren't a lot of loans available anymore where you don't have to put down 20 percent," says Peter Bishop, owner of Independent Custom Realty. "These buyers have been established in their jobs for 4 or 5 years, and they're now able to jump to that price point because of FHA financing."

Center City is still No. 1

"The further away you go from Center City, the bigger the slow-down has been this year," says Bishop.

Skidmore agrees: "It's a myth that there's an overabundance of inventory all over the city. If a one-bedroom condo in Rittenhouse goes on the market, it's going to sell right away."

Both realtors have also seen fairly steady sales activity in the Graduate Hospital area.

"One thing I was looking at in the beginning of the year was whether Graduate Hospital would have legs — whether it would continue to stand up in the face of national housing difficulties," Bishop says. "That it has was one of the big surprises of this past year."

B. BRIST FOR GPTMC

▶ Don't take too much time to think about that condo — Center City is still selling well, says Peter Bishop, owner of Independent Custom Realty.

New construction trumped old

"Buyers love stainless steel and granite countertops," says Skidmore. "Most want new construction that has those aesthetic qualities."

First-time homebuyers especially want those spanking-new, move-in-ready homes they don't have to put any work into, he adds, which might be why Graduate Hospital, with all its new construction, has stayed popular this year.

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